

Claims

- [c1] 1. A collapsible pet carrier, comprising:
 - a base;
 - a frame secured to said base and selectively shiftable between a collapsed position proximal to the base and an extended use position; and
 - a flexible cover adapted to be disposed over said frame in the extended position thereof,
 - said frame movable from the collapsed to the extended position thereof of its own accord and without manual manipulation of the frame.
- [c2] 2. The pet carrier of claim 1, said frame formed of elongated, resilient shape memory material.
- [c3] 3. The pet carrier of claim 2, said material comprising a resilient metal or synthetic resin having shape memory capacity.
- [c4] 4. The pet carrier of claim 3, said material comprising music wire.
- [c5] 5. The pet carrier of claim 2, said frame formed of a unitary, endless length of said material.

- [c6] 6.The pet carrier of claim 1, said frame secured to said base.
- [c7] 7.The pet carrier of claim 1, said flexible cover formed from a fabric material.
- [c8] 8.The pet carrier of claim 7, said fabric material selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin, fabrics, and canvas.
- [c9] 9.The pet carrier of claim 1, said cover secured to said base.
- [c10] 10.The pet carrier of claim 9, said cover including an elongated attachment rod secured to the lower end thereof, said rod engageable by couplers affixed to said base.
- [c11] 11.The pet carrier of claim 1, said cover presenting at least one window opening therethrough, said window opening covered by a generally transparent material permitting visual observation of the interior of the carrier.
- [c12] 12.The pet carrier of claim 11, said generally transparent material comprising a mesh material.
- [c13] 13.The pet carrier of claim 11, including a non-transparent segment secured to said cover and operable to selectively cover said window opening.

- [c14] 14.The pet carrier of claim 1, including an access door formed in said cover and selectively openable to permit ingress and egress of an animal into and out of said carrier.
- [c15] 15.The pet carrier of claim 1, said base formed of substantially rigid synthetic material.
- [c16] 16.The pet carrier of claim 1, including a top engageable with said base to cooperatively form a housing, said frame in the collapsed position thereof and said cover being situated within said housing, said top serving to maintain said frame in said collapsed position.
- [c17] 17.The pet carrier of claim 16, said base including an underside opposite said frame, said top being configured for attachment to said base underside when the top is disengaged with the base.
- [c18] 18.The pet carrier of claim 17, including coupling structure for connecting said base underside and said top.
- [c19] 19.A collapsible pet carrier comprising:
 - a base presenting an upper margin and an underside beneath the upper margin;
 - a frame secured to said base and shiftable between a collapsed position proximal to the base and an extended

use position;
a flexible cover adapted to be disposed over said frame in the extended position thereof; and
a top configured for attachment to the upper margin of said base in order to cooperatively define a housing for said frame when the frame is in the collapsed position thereof,
said top being selectively detachable from said base upper margin to permit extension of said frame,
said top also configured for attachment to said base underside when the frame is in the extended position thereof.

- [c20] 20.The pet carrier of claim 19, said frame formed of elongated, resilient shape memory material.
- [c21] 21.The pet carrier of claim 20, said material comprising a resilient metal or synthetic resin having shape memory capacity.
- [c22] 22.The pet carrier of claim 21, said material comprising music wire.
- [c23] 23.The pet carrier of claim 20, said frame formed of a unitary, endless length of said material.
- [c24] 24.The pet carrier of claim 19, said flexible cover formed from a fabric material.

- [c25] 25.The pet carrier of claim 24, said fabric material selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin, fabrics, and canvas.
- [c26] 26.The pet carrier of claim 19, said cover secured to said base.
- [c27] 27.The pet carrier of claim 26, said cover including an elongated attachment rod secured to the lower end thereof, said rod engagable by couplers affixed to said base.
- [c28] 28.The pet carrier of claim 19, said cover presenting at least one window opening therethrough, said window opening covered by a generally transparent material permitting visual observation of the interior of the carrier.
- [c29] 29.The pet carrier of claim 28, said generally transparent material comprising a mesh material.
- [c30] 30.The pet carrier of claim 29, including a non-transparent segment secured to said cover and operable to selectively cover said window opening.
- [c31] 31.The pet carrier of claim 19, including an access door formed in said cover and selectively openable to permit ingress and egress of an animal into and out of said carrier.

- [c32] 32.The pet carrier of claim 19, said base formed of substantially rigid synthetic material.
- [c33] 33.The pet carrier of claim 19, said top formed of substantially rigid synthetic material.
- [c34] 34.The pet carrier of claim 19, including coupling structure for connecting said base underside and said top.
- [c35] 35.A collapsible pet carrier comprising:
 - a base;
 - a frame secured to said base and shiftable between a collapsed position and an extended use position;
 - a flexible cover disposed over said frame and adapted to form an enclosure when the frame is in its extended position; and
 - a top releasably attached to said base to cooperatively define a housing containing therein said frame and cover,
 - said frame being restrained in said collapsed position by virtue of the presence of said top,
 - said frame being extendable of its own accord and without manual manipulation upon removal of said top to thereby relieve the restraint on the frame.
- [c36] 36.The carrier of claim 35, said frame shiftable from the extended position thereof to said collapsed position by

pressing of said top against the extended frame and toward the base.

- [c37] 37. The pet carrier of claim 35, said frame formed of elongated, resilient shape memory material.
- [c38] 38. The pet carrier of claim 37, said material comprising a resilient metal or synthetic resin having shape memory capacity.
- [c39] 39. The pet carrier of claim 38, said material comprising music wire.
- [c40] 40. The pet carrier of claim 37, said frame formed of a unitary, endless length of said material.
- [c41] 41. The pet carrier of claim 35, said flexible cover formed from a fabric material.
- [c42] 42. The pet carrier of claim 40, said fabric material selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin, fabrics, and canvas.
- [c43] 43. The pet carrier of claim 35, said cover secured to said base.
- [c44] 44. The pet carrier of claim 43, said cover including an elongated attachment rod secured to the lower end thereof, said rod engagable by couplers affixed to said

base.

- [c45] 45.The pet carrier of claim 35, said cover presenting at least one window opening therethrough, said window opening covered by a generally transparent material permitting visual observation of the interior of the carrier.
- [c46] 46.The pet carrier of claim 45, said generally transparent material comprising a mesh material.
- [c47] 47.The pet carrier of claim 46, including a non-transparent segment secured to said cover and operable to selectively cover said window opening.
- [c48] 48.The pet carrier of claim 35, including an access door formed in said cover and selectively openable to permit ingress and egress of an animal into and out of said carrier.
- [c49] 49.The pet carrier of claim 35, said base formed of substantially rigid synthetic material.
- [c50] 50.The pet carrier of claim 35, said top formed of substantially rigid synthetic material.
- [c51] 51.The pet carrier of claim 35, including coupling structure for connecting said base underside and said top.
- [c52] 52.In a method of erecting a pet carrier, said carrier hav-

ing a base and a top releasably interconnected to cooperatively define a housing, an extendable frame and a frame cover within the housing, said method comprising the steps of detaching said top from said base, and allowing said frame to move to an extended use position of its own accord and without manual manipulation of the frame by virtue of shape memory characteristics of the frame, whereby the pet carrier is erected.

[c53] 53. The method of claim 52, further including the step of collapsing the erected pet carrier after use thereof, said collapsing step comprising the step of placing said top above the erected pet carrier, and pressing said top downwardly toward said base, and interconnecting the top to said base.